

# Narrative Writing



narrative |'narətiv|

noun

a spoken or written account of connected events; a story :  
*the hero of his modest narrative.*

- the narrated part or parts of a literary work, as distinct from dialogue.
- the practice or art of narration : *traditions of oral narrative.*

# Personal Narrative Writing



# Your goal?

From the Common Application: *“The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice.”*

# Your audience?

A college admissions officer, who will spend about three minutes on it. Prove:

1. Your ability to use standard written English that is correctly written, punctuated, and contains correct grammar, usage, syntax.
2. Your ability to think reflectively and convey true, not cliché feelings.
3. Your creativity and originality, proof that you will enhance the quality of the college's academic and social life.

I always have my \_\_\_\_\_ with me  
because...

You don't really know me if you don't  
know...because...

I first felt really grown up when...

On a free morning or afternoon, I like to...

When it comes down to it, I can really depend on...

A place that puts me at my ease is...

## **New Choices from the Common Application (updated for 2013-14) - max 650 words**

- Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?
- Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.



Aim for 1000-1200 words and later edit down to 650 words or less to preserve the most revealing information, the most interesting use of language

Rough draft for Thursday 9/12